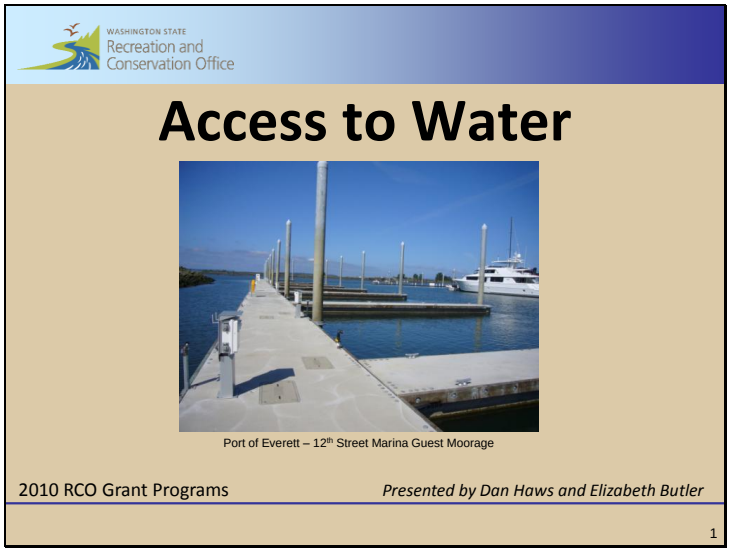
Slide 1

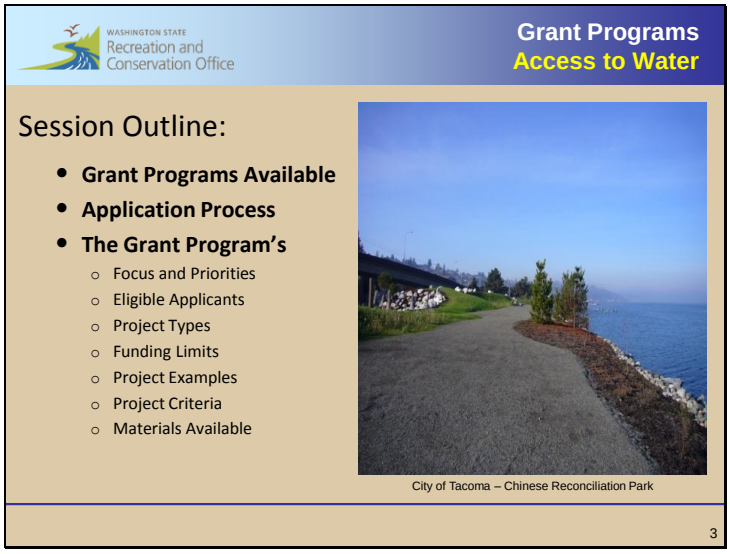


(Introductions)

Slide 2

This session deals with projects that will be accessing water for purposes of recreation.

Slide 3



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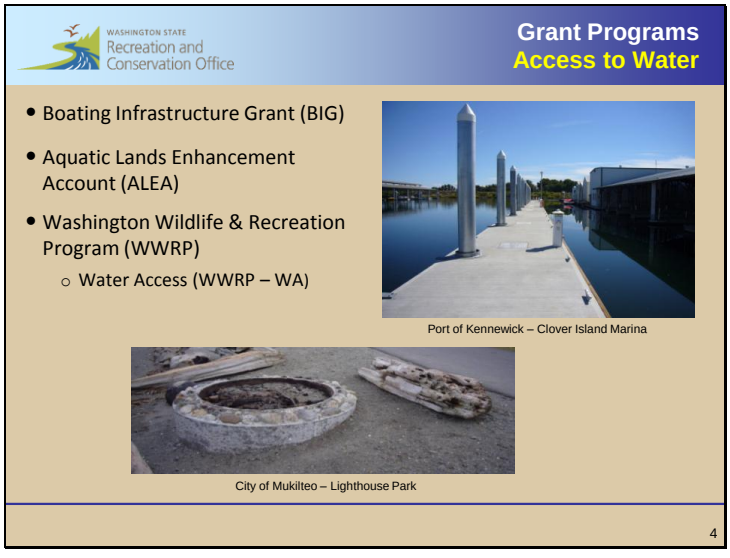


The grant programs available this year include:

•Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

•Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

•Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Water Access Category

Slide 5

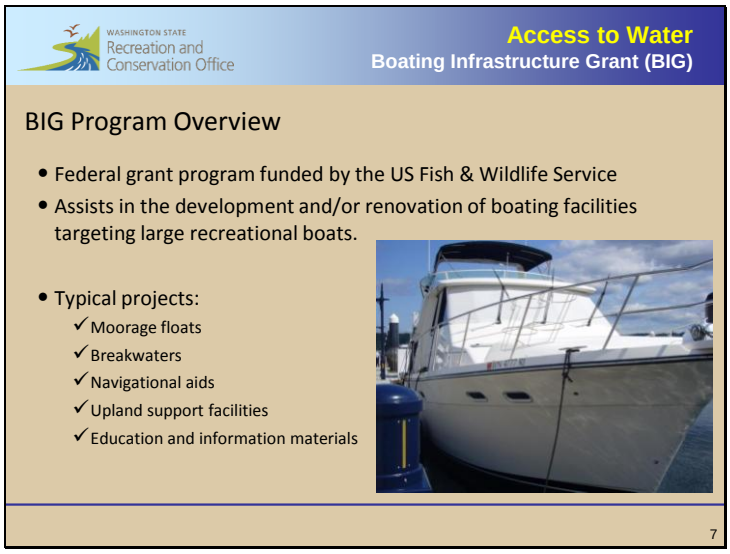
2010 Timeline *(Review schedule on slide.)*

**** BIG is a written Review and Evaluation** (BIG Tier-II projects are submitted to the USFWS in October)

Slide 6

The first grant program we will cover will be the Boating Infrastructure Grant or BIG.

Slide 7



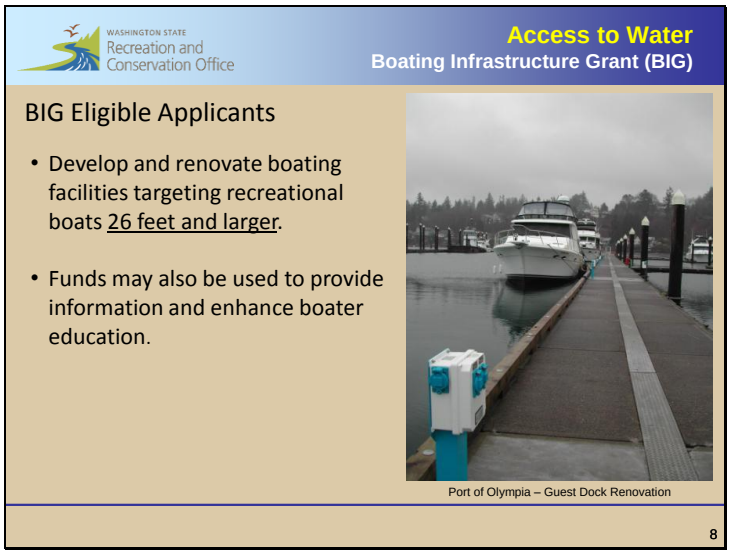
➢The BIG Program policies were adopted by RCO in 2001 and is funded by the US Fish and Wildlife service and managed by RCO.

➢The program is designed for large boats that are used for recreation purposes.

➢Typical projects include development and/or renovation of:

- •Boarding floats, transient moorage floats fixed docks, piers and buoys.
- •Breakwater structures
- •Dingy docks
- •Navigational aids
- •Upland support facilities – restrooms/showers, utilities etc.
- •Education and Information Materials
- •May include charts, guides, brochures

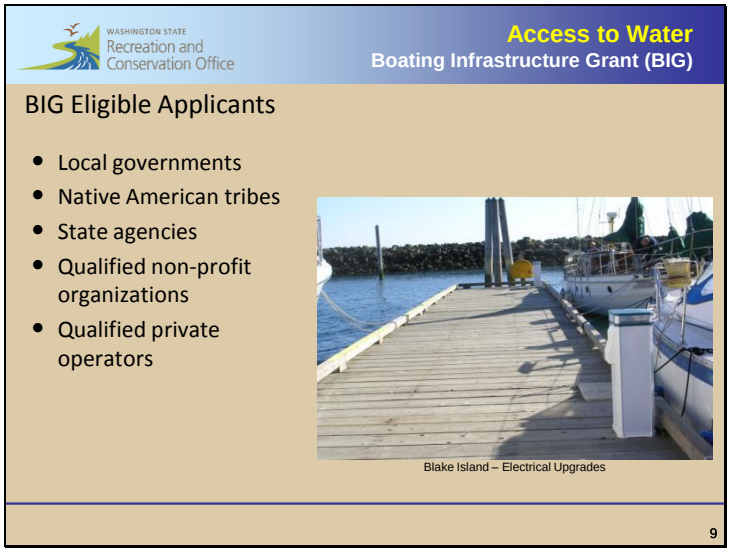
Slide 8



•The priority for the BIG program is for boats that are 26 feet or larger and used for recreation purposes.

•This program can also be used to provide boater education projects ranging from issues such as the latest in navigational charts and tools to the sustainable environmental practices for recreational boaters.

Slide 9



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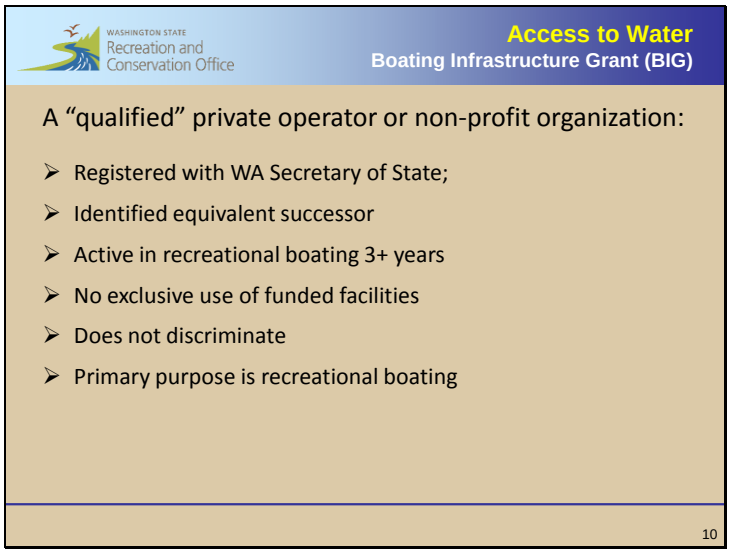

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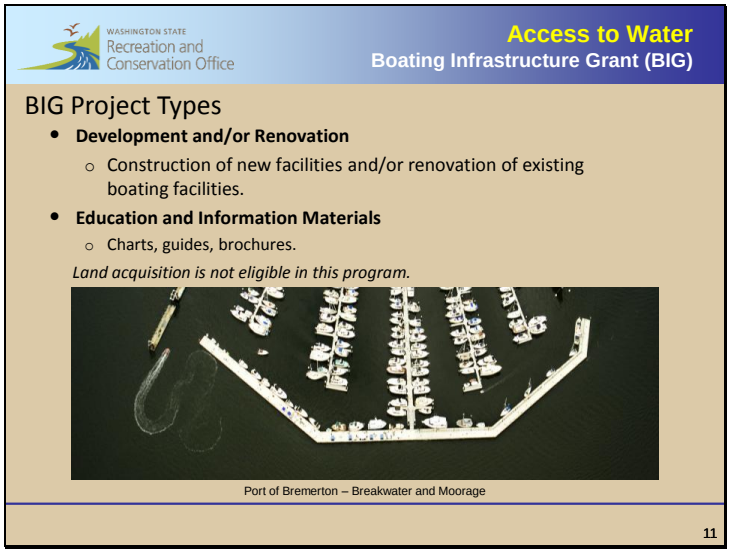


Big Project Types:

- 'Development and/or Renovation

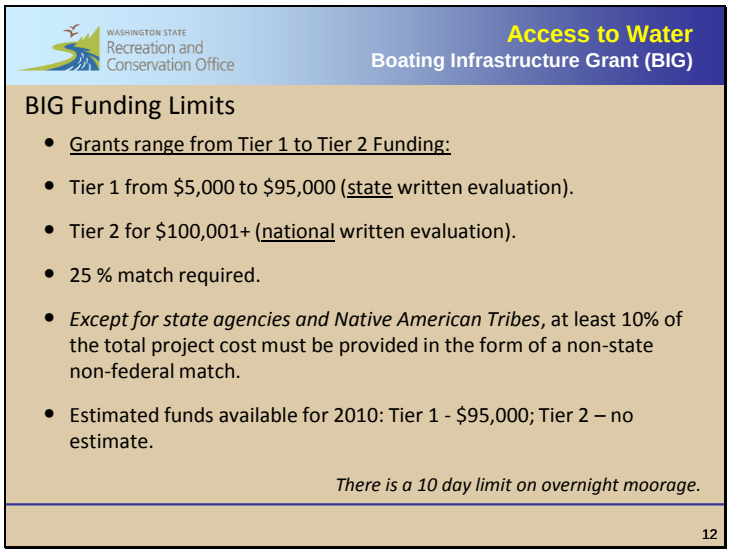
  Construction of new facilities and/or the renovation of existing boating facilities.

- Education and Information Materials

  Charts, guides, brochures

Acquisition is not eligible under this program.

Slide 12



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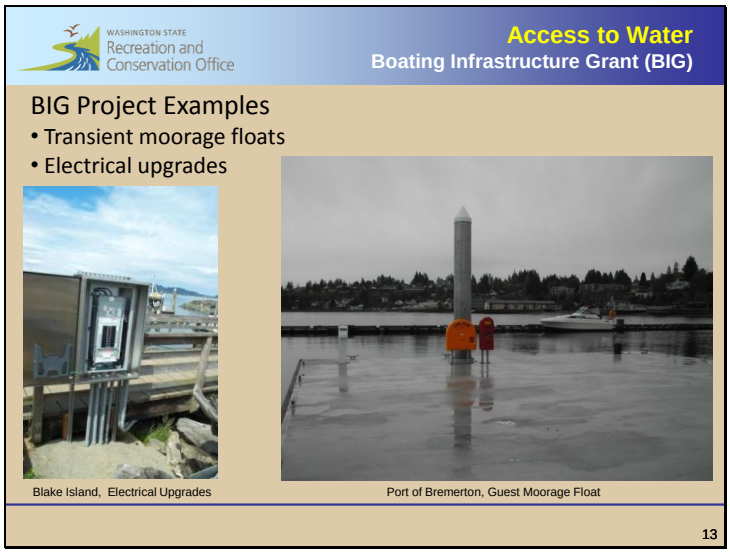
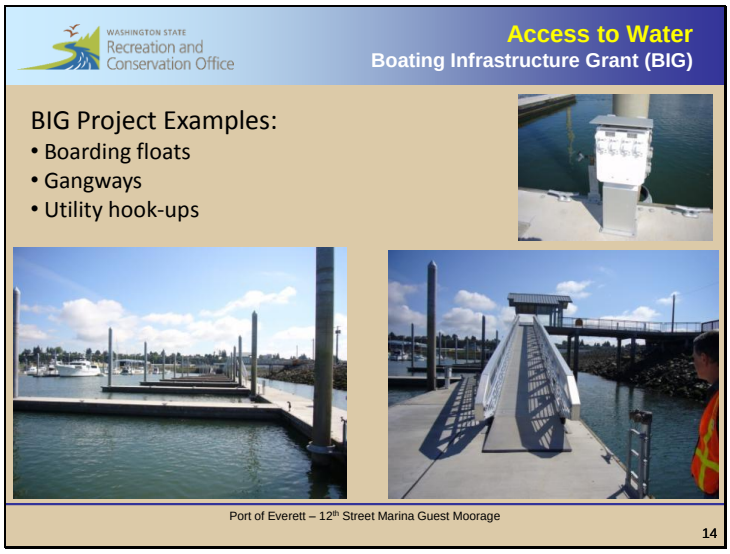


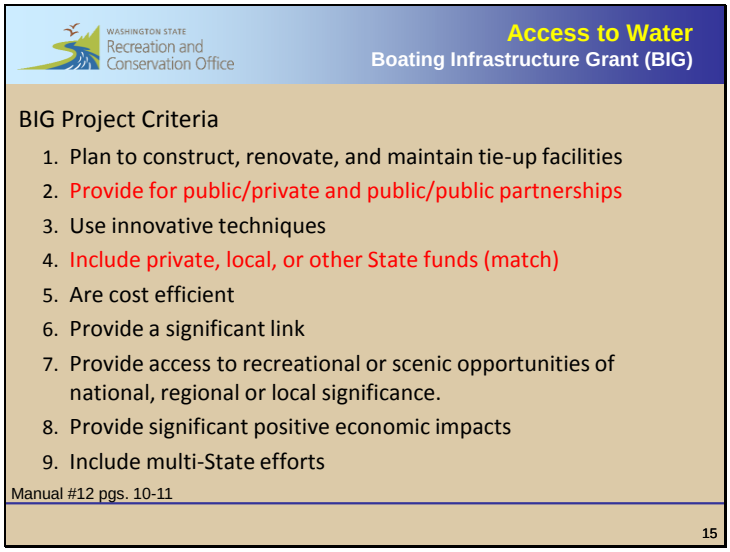
Project Examples

Slide 14



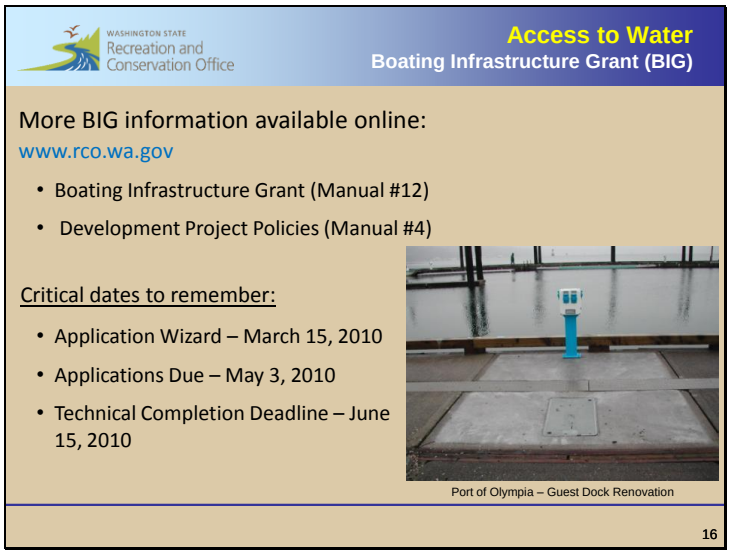
Project Examples

Slide 15



Refer to print-out of the Evaluation Criteria and talk about red highlighted questions being worth up to 15 points possible.

Slide 16



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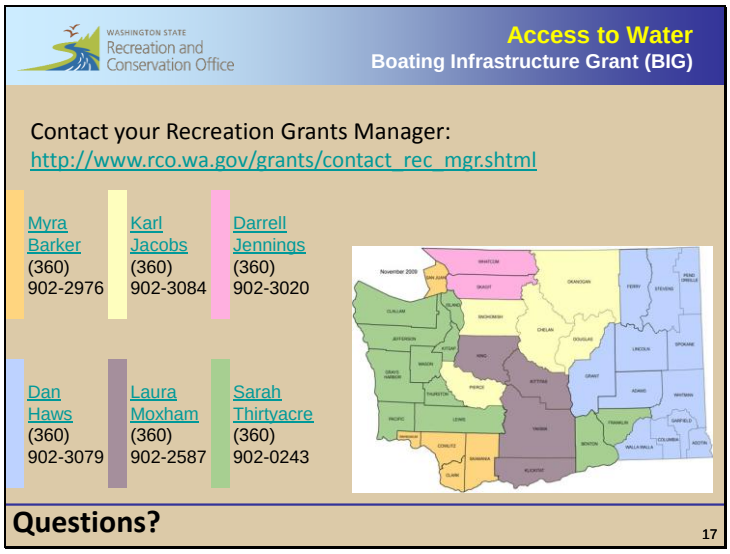
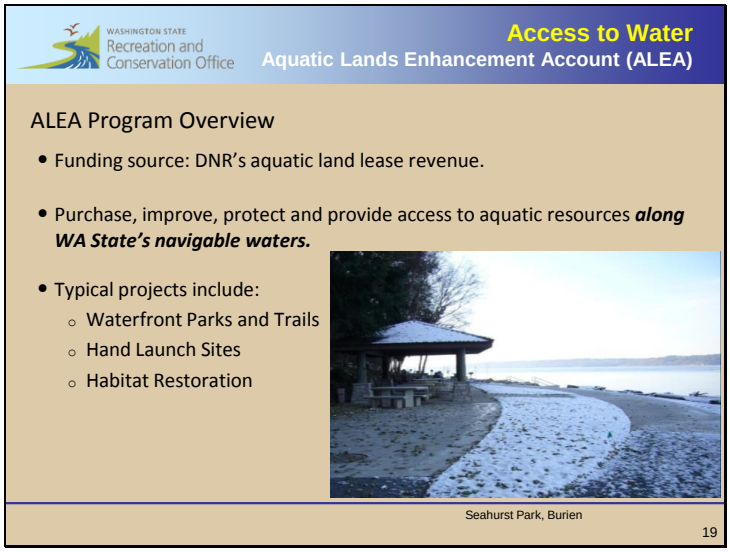


Use this map to contact the RCO grant manager over your area or region.

Slide 18

The second grant program we have available is the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account – aka ALEA.

Slide 19



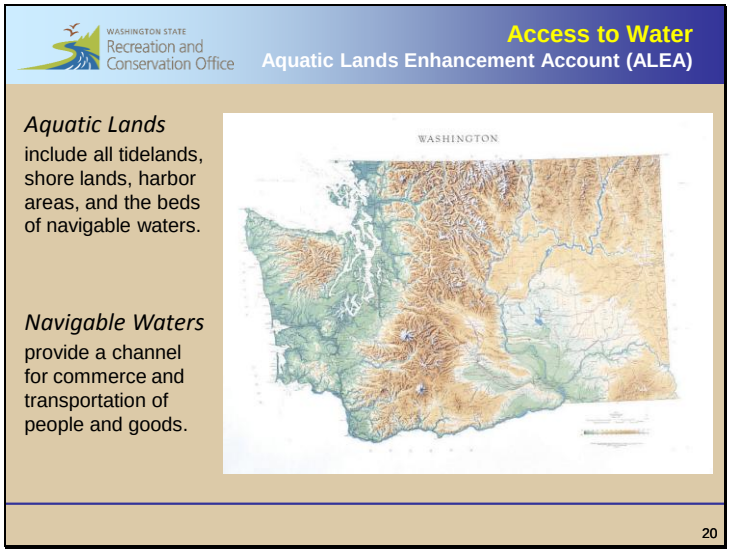
Funds generated from 2.4 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands are used to protect and enhance those lands.

DNR's waterfront leases and sale of harvest rights for geoduck clams, among other uses brings roughly $5 mil to the ALEA every biennium.

Since inception (in 1984) we've funded more than 70 projects including land acquisition, water front park development, water trails and boat launches, and some very impressive habitat restoration projects that we'll talk more about later.

But let's first focus on a couple of definitions.

Slide 20



Aquatic lands – lie under navigable water.

But how do we know if a water body is navigable?

Good question. There is a map of WA State's navigable waters – but I can't show it to you.

Bottom-line: defining navigable waters can be politically challenging and complicated. It sometimes takes a court of law to make such a determination.

What we know is navigable:

All marine waters, including tidally influenced river reaches. This includes

- Washington's Pacific Coast,
- Strait of Juan de Fuca,
- Puget Sound,
- Hood Canal.

Major rivers from

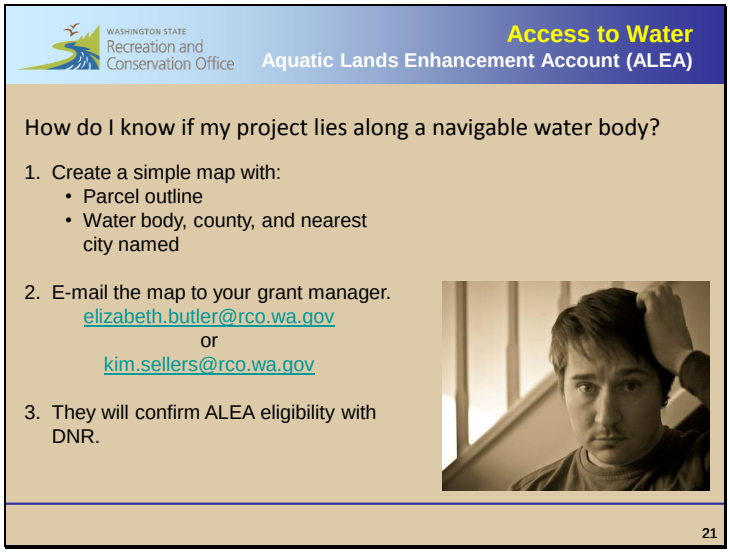
- the Nooksack all the way
- south to the Columbia

Lakes from

- Ozette and
- Lake Crescent on the Olympic Peninsula to
- Moses Lake, and
- Liberty Lake on the eastern most edge of the state.

Manual 21 page 5 has a list of lakes and creeks in Eastern Washington.

Slide 21



Given the grey area inherent in establishing whether or not some projects lie along a navigable waterway, we recommend the following:

Make a simple map and email it to your Grant Manager.

For ALEA that would be me – Elizabeth Butler if your project is located in Whatcom, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, King, or Kitsap counties.

Or Kim Sellers for the remainder of the state. I'll share a map later on in the presentation with contact information. And you can always use the RCO website to find us if you need to.

Slide 22

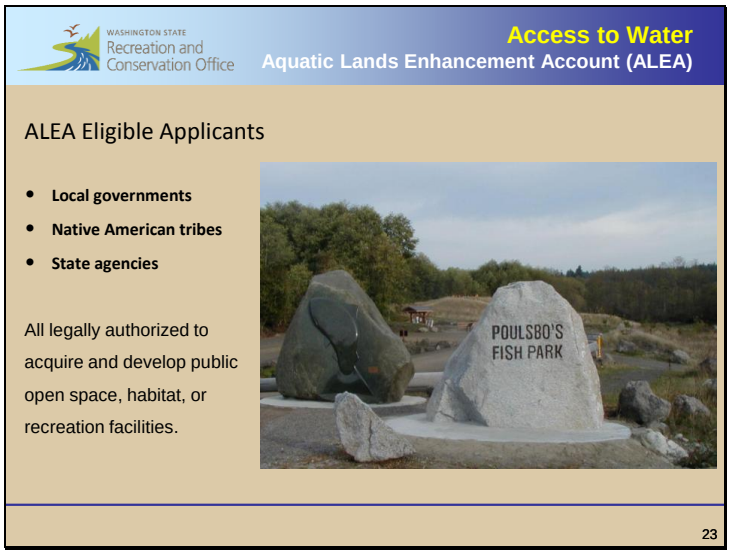
It's not just about the amazing views one can find along the shoreline – it's about touching the water – enjoying the land's edge with public access appropriate to your project.

This grant program recognizes our shorelines are irreplaceable.

With four major goals – the best ALEA projects accomplish all of them:

- ✓ Provide waterfront recreation befitting the habitat conditions
- ✓ Ensure perpetual conservation
- ✓ Build public awareness about aquatic lands as a finite and precious natural resource
- ✓ Restore habitat re-establishing naturally self sustaining ecological functions.

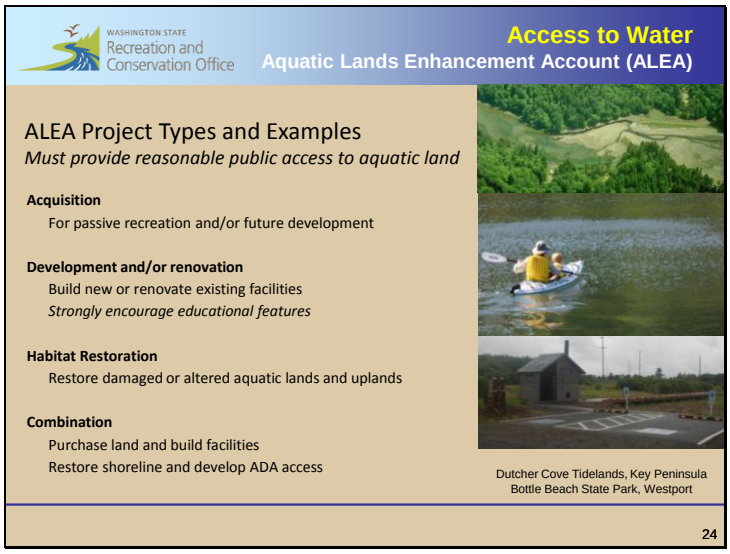
Slide 23



As you can see State Agencies, and Local and Tribal government agencies are eligible, if legally authorized to accomplish the scope of their project.

Conversely Federal Agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private entities are not eligible to apply for ALEA, but we encouraged partnerships with entities that are.

Slide 24



What types of projects are eligible for ALEA?

Acquire property now … and develop or restore later. What can you buy with ALEA$$? Fee simple aquatic lands and/or uplands; conservation easements, access easements, and leases are also eligible.

For acquisitions, let RCO Manual #3 be your reference.

At a minimum, public access must be available upon purchase.

Important to remember – the ALEA focus is aquatic lands – and application evaluations are competitive.

Focus your project on the shoreline and be sure the uplands (if any) are necessary to project success.

Development includes improving existing and building new structures that support public access and enjoyment.

For example:

- fishing piers and platforms,
- launch and moorage facilities,
- Paths and trails
- Ramps and stairs
- swim areas
- parking lots
- Driveways and entry roads
- Restrooms
- Benches
- Tables
- Viewpoints
- Platforms
- Blinds
- interpretive signs and kiosks

Habitat Restoration – return damaged or altered aquatic lands and nearshore to self-sustaining natural function.

For example:

- remove overwater structures
- remove shoreline armoring
- add woody debris
- reconfigure creek channels

For all projects, interpretive and educational elements are encouraged.

Combination projects can include any two or more of these elements.

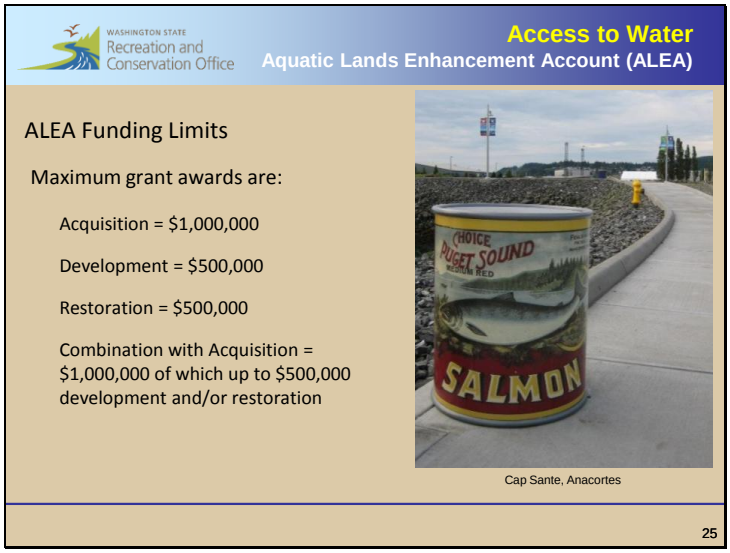
For combinations that include acquisition – sponsors will need to close on the purchase within 90 days of the Grant Funding date, if not earlier under a waiver of retroactivity.

What is *not* eligible?

- Concession buildings
- fish or wildlife production facilities
- indoor facilities like swimming pools, community centers, museums, visitor centers
- offices
- shops
- residences
- meeting rooms
- operating
- overhead
- incidental costs
- routine maintenance
- legally mandated clean-up or mitigation costs.

(Note: if mitigation is directly related to the proposed project it is eligible as long as costs are <= to 25% of total project.)

Slide 25



Funding limits – ALEA can award no more than $1,000,000 for Acquisition and Combination projects with an acquisition component.

No more than $500,000 can be allocated to restoration and or development costs.

Notes on Admin and Architecture and Engineering project budgets.

If your project is Acquisition –up to 5% of your project budget for Administrative costs. (No A&E for acquisition.)

See Acquisitions Manual #3 page 5 for details

For development and restoration projects – up to 20% of project costs can be A&E *(An RCO idiosyncrasy: A&E includes admin – so do not include a separate line item for admin on restoration and development projects).*

See Development Manual #4 page 4 for details.

Slide 26

ALEA requires 50% match minimum, no exceptions. *Even State Agencies need to have it.*

Sometimes, other RCFB grants (WWRP will be discussed next) are eligible to match ALEA.

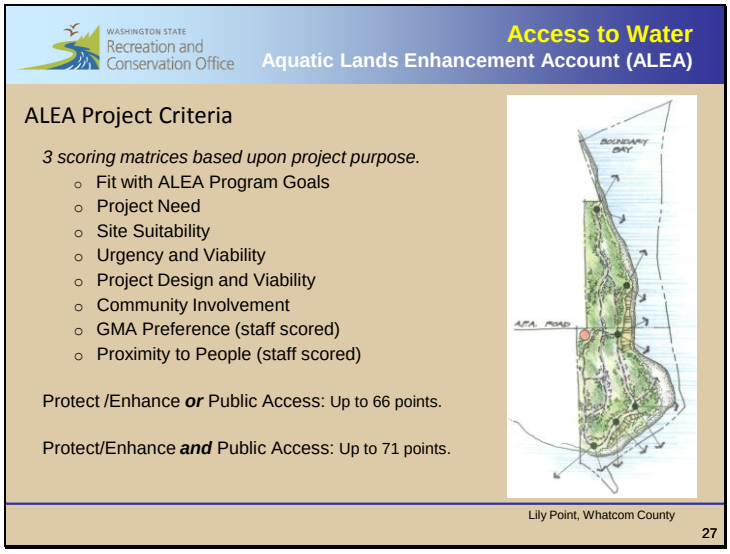
- Project elements must be eligible in both grant programs.
- Be sure to present a project that stands on its own in each grant program – i.e. include a plan b for matching funds to avoid feasibility questions from reviewers.

What counts as match?

- Cash, appropriations;
- bonds;
- donations of $, land, labor equipment, and materials;
- Federal, state, local, and private grants;
- Force account labor, equipment, and materials.

Remember – Local governments (not state agencies and not tribal governments, *only local governments*) At least 10% of the required match must be non-state and non-federal funds – local funding – like conservation futures, or private contributions. Think about partnering with local conservation groups who may have ways to contribute to your project either in-kind or cash contributions.

Slide 27



The ALEA ranking process is complicated. Become familiar with the criteria and point scoring on pages 11-14 of ALEA Manual 21 and note that the multipliers for questions vary. Today we do not have the time to cover this in much detail. You will need to work with your grant manager to work through these for your project.

If you want to maximize your points, prepare a solid proposal for a project that meets both ALEA purposes – Access and Protection/Enhancement. But single purpose projects can rank highly too, so don't feel you need to have multiple program goals to be successful.

GMA Preference and Proximity to people are two cut and dry categories scored by RCO staff. Your project location determines these points – so think strategically when choosing among multiple proposals to put forward.

One way to get a feel for a good project…

Slide 28

is to looks at past success. These are the top five ALEA projects from the last round of funding.

Lily Point Marine Reserve: An excellent example of a combination acquisition and public access development project. Whatcom County was the lead sponsor – but worked collaboratively with The Lummi Nation, The Nature Conservancy and The Whatcom Land Trust to develop this project.

Dutcher Cove: An example of a successful single purpose project – acquisition only – of pristine habitat under pressure from commercial shellfish harvest. Passive recreational access for now, perhaps we will see a park development proposal for the uplands in a year of two.

Pt. Heyer Drift Cell Preservation: Conservation Acquisition with passive recreation access. This is an excellent example of strategic acquisitions planning. The sponsor identified a Geographical Envelope with multiple property acquisition options – which improves potential for success by leaving flexibility for negotiations not yet complete.

Judd Cove: One of my favorites – it has everything access, habitat and historic restoration, nature preserve park development.

Note that sometimes just a fraction of a point can make a difference between a funded and an unfunded project. This is where the proximity to people and GMA compliance issues can make a difference between many high quality projects. So, if you are choosing among multiple projects – you may want to consider how these cut and dry factors may influence your final ranking.

Learn from those who have gone before you – Become familiar with the PRISM database – you don't even need to sign in. Just check the read only box for most flexible viewing option. Navigate to the summary screen for these projects. You'll be able to view the power point presentations and scripts saved on the attachment tab.

Slide 29

One person's mistake can be another person's lesson. Consider these common missteps:

We've seen wonderful projects presented in the evaluation workshops– ranked high on the list – big celebrations – only to find out at grant agreement contracting the sponsor could not come up with the Matching Funds and the project died. Make sure you have your matching funds.

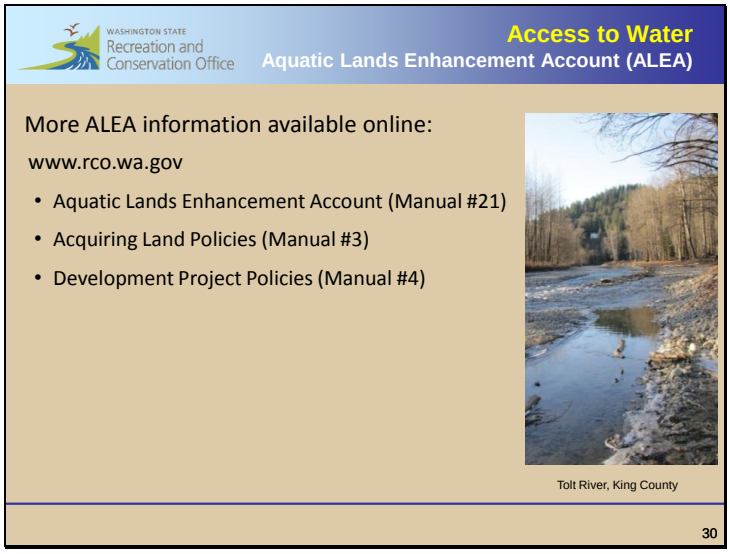
In their application a sponsor committed that more than 80% of the project would be funded by matching grants. Yet in the end some of the match they had planned on using was not eligible. The RCO award amount was decreased in order to maintain the percent match committed to in the grant application. Don't over estimate your matching funds.

You may want to keep the match commitment to the minimum required unless you have it "in hand."

If you plan to acquire property outside of a grant award – consider getting a waiver of retroactivity (Acquiring Lands Manual #3) If purchased under a waiver, you may be able to use that investment to match a future grant application, or it may qualify as replacement property for a conversion.

There is no waiver of retroactivity for construction or restoration work. It only applies to acquisitions. Encouraged by a high ranking, some sponsors move forward with construction after the ALEA funds were awarded but before the agreement was signed – which made these expenses ineligible as ALEA match. Lesson: Don't start your construction work until you have a signed grant agreement.

Slide 30

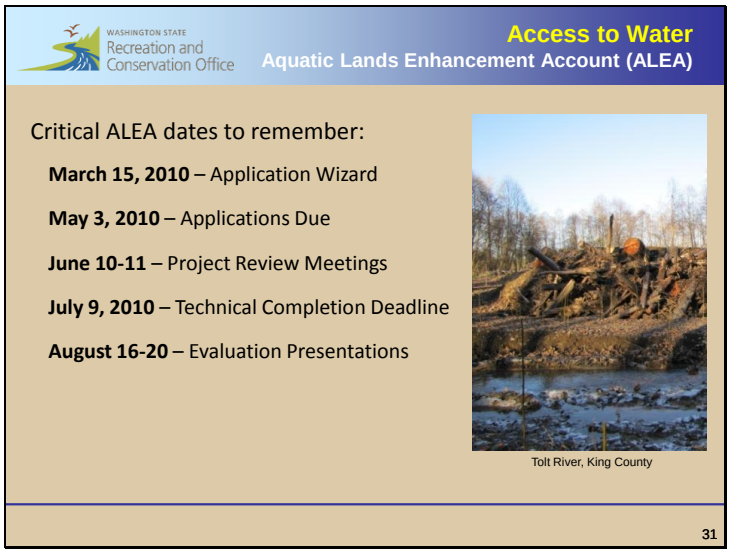


Our newly formatted website makes it easier to find the answers – check it out and let us know if you have trouble finding what you need.

A couple of reminders: Waiver of Retroactivity is available for land acquisitions, but development and restoration costs are not eligible unless incurred after the ALEA Grant Agreement is signed by sponsor and RCO. So make sure your project schedule accommodates paperwork.

This will be a busy summer – so mark these dates on your calendar.

Slide 31



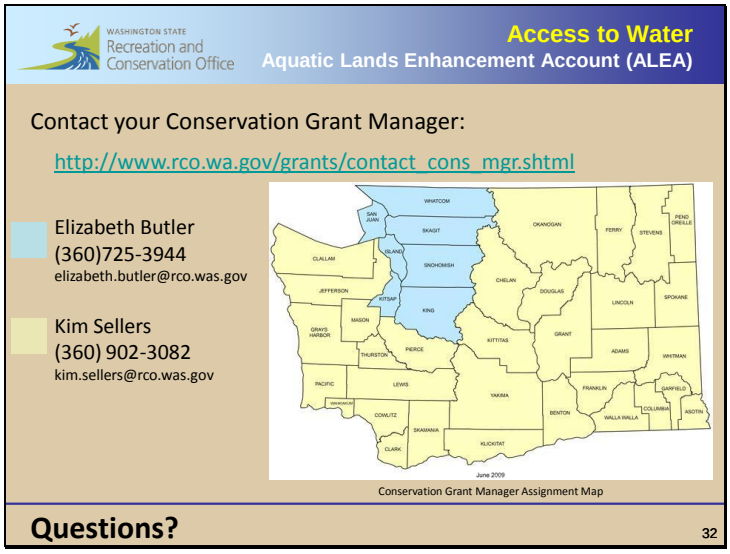
Application Wizard – the earlier the better. It helps the grant managers plan ahead. We are starting to schedule site visits and are available to support the success of your project.

What's the difference between the Application Due Date and the Technical Completion Deadline?
On May 3rd you want to be sure you've hit the project submit button in PRISM. Then working with partners and your grant manager you will have a little more than two months to refine and improve your proposal, budgets, and power point presentations.

On June 10th you will be scheduled for a timed 9 minute power point project presentation before a review and advisory committee. On July 9th your application refinement process will be complete. Next you will want to focus on your power point presentation.

In mid-August you will be scheduled for a timed and very brief project presentation (less than 15 minutes). Exceed the allotted time? Not an option, so be sure you're prepared – these presentations are scored by an independent committee of volunteers. And your rankings depend on a well-developed project proposal.

Slide 32

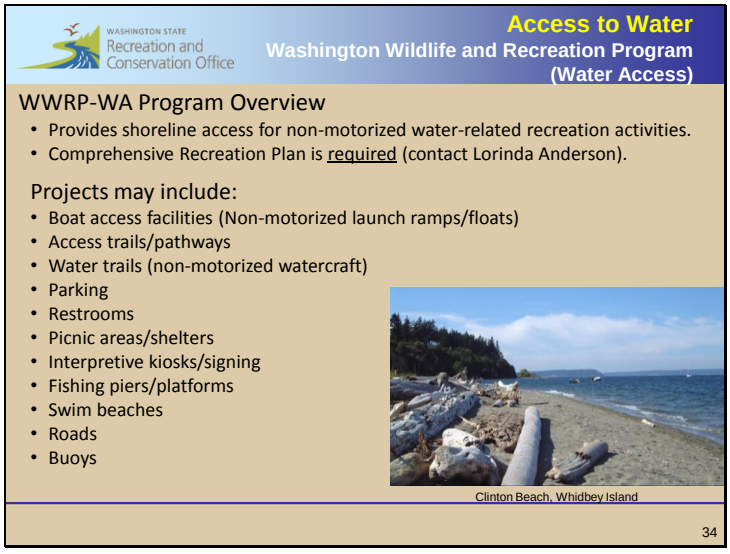


Under the ALEA grant program there are only two grant managers for the entire state. As you develop your proposals --- don't hesitate to call or e-mail us with questions -- we look forward to working with you.

Slide 33

The final grant program we will cover will be the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Water Access section.

Slide 34



Review bulleted list on slide.

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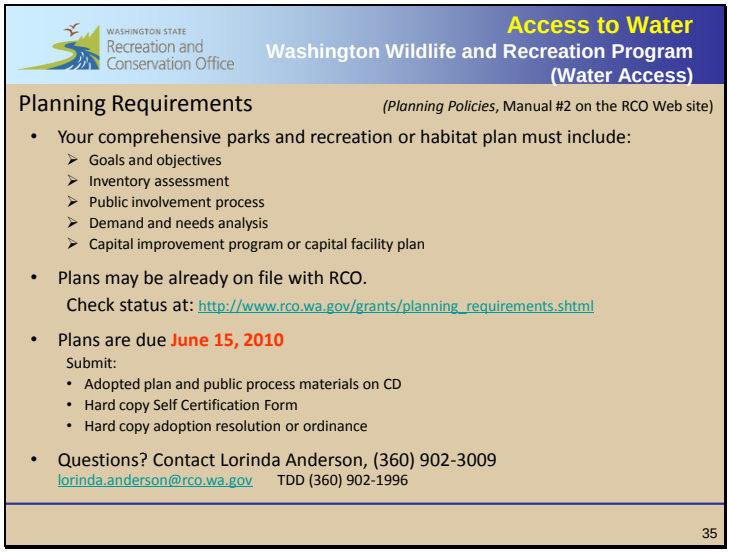
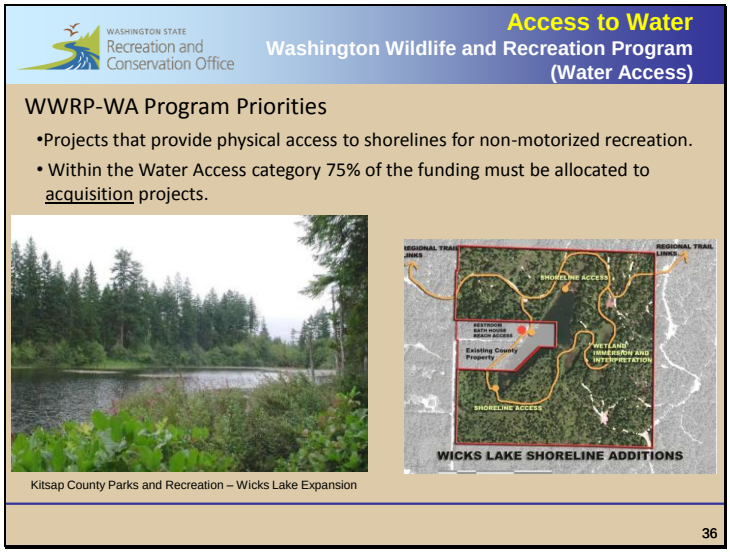


A comprehensive parks and recreation or habitat plan is required to be eligible for WWRP program funding.

- Your comprehensive parks and recreation or habitat plan must include:
  - Goals and objectives
  - Inventory assessment
  - Public involvement process
  - Demand and needs analysis
  - Capital improvement program or capital facility plan
- Plans may be already on file with RCO.
  Check status at: http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/planning_requirements.shtml
- Plans are due **June 15, 2010**
  Submit:
  - Adopted plan and public process materials on CD
  - Hard copy Self Certification Form
  - Hard copy adoption resolution or ordinance
- Questions? Contact Lorinda Anderson, (360) 902-3009 or email lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov
  TDD (360) 902-1996

Slide 36



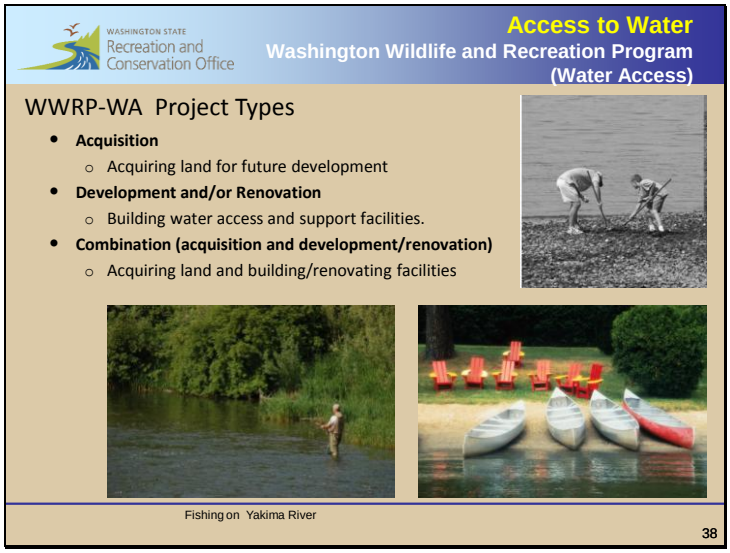
WWRP-WA Program Priorities

- Projects that provide physical access to shorelines for non-motorized recreation.
- Within the Water Access category 75% of the funding must be allocated to acquisition projects.

Slide 37

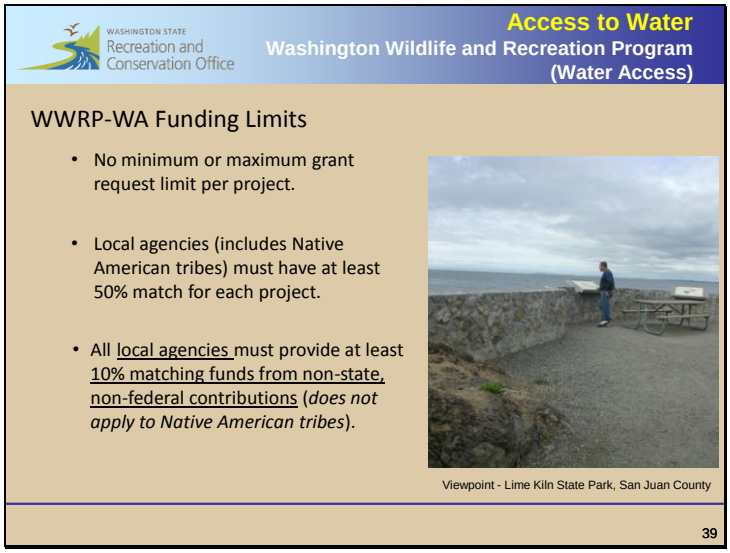
Review list on slide.

Slide 38



Review list on slide.

Slide 39



<u>WWRP-WA Funding Limits:</u>

➢No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project.

➢Local agencies and Native America tribes must provide a minimum match of 50 % for each project.

➢The match may include, but is not limited to:

- •Appropriations or cash
- •Bonds
- •Donations of cash, land, labor, equipment, and materials
- •Federal, state, local, and private grants
- •Force account labor, equipment, and materials

➢*<u>Local Agencies:</u> at least 10 % of the match must be non-state, non-federal contribution (does not apply to Native American tribes).*

Slide 40

Project Examples

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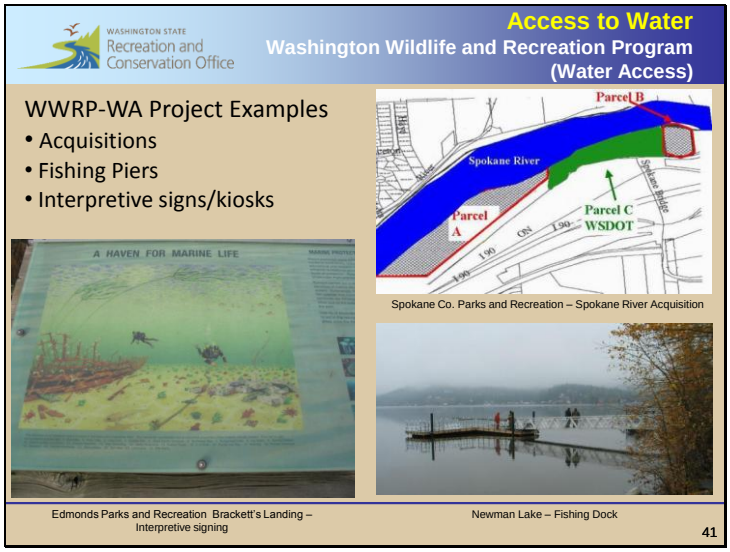

Project Examples

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Access to Water
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
(Water Access)

WWRP-WA Project Criteria

1. Public Need
2. Project Design
3. Immediacy of Threat (acquisition projects only)
4. Site Suitability
5. Expansion
6. Diversity of Recreational Use
7. Project Support
8. Cost Efficiencies

Manual #10a pg. 63

Sun Lakes State Park

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Access to Water
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
(Water Access)

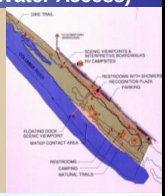
More WWRP-WA information available online:

www.rco.wa.gov

- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Water Access (Manual #10a)
- Acquiring Land Policies (Manual #3)
- Development Project Policies (Manual #4)

Critical dates to remember:

- March 15, 2010 – Application Wizard Due
- May 3, 2010 – Applications Due
- July 30, 2010 – Technical Completion Deadline



Captain William Clark Park, Clark County

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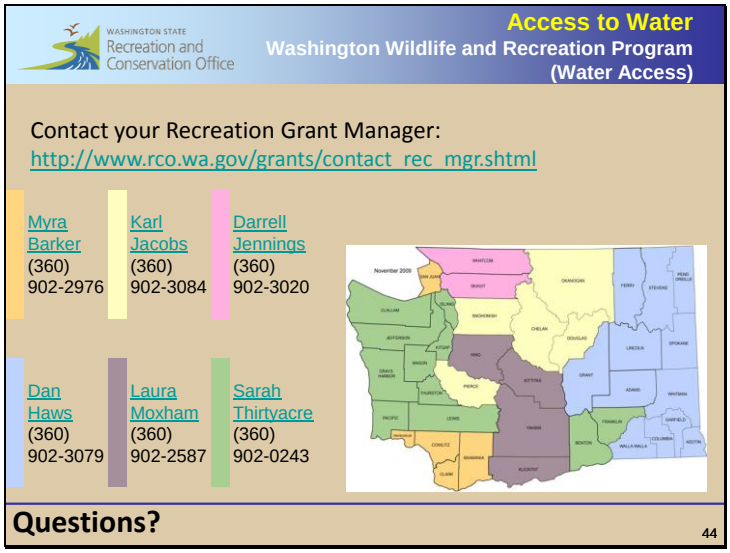

Use this map to contact the RCO grant manager over your area or region.

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Thanks for coming today.